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Daily Eastern News: February 12, 1997

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INSIDE It's a no go

The Honors Study Abroad
program canceled for fall
semester

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The
Daily

WEDNESDAY
February 12, 1997

Eastern News

Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, Ill. 61920
Vol. 82, No. 98
12 pages

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid"

Go the distance

Women's track and field
athletes look for event
recognition within the
OVC



PAGE
12

Buzzard delays classroom move

Coordinators plan for spring 1998

By SCOTT BOEHMER
Campus editor

Though the renovation of Buzzard Building is expected to be completed by the end of August, coordinators of the project say classes will not be held in the building until spring 1998.

Five of the departments in the building have already begun moving in, said Michael Doerr, the manager of design and construction for the project.

However only two of those departments - WEIU-TV/radio and educational administration - have moved into their permanent locations. Secondary education and foundations, educational psychology and guidance and Higher Education Cooperative Act offices are all in temporary locations.

While most the space of WEIU is in use, the control room and some of the offices still need to be completed and will not have equipment moved in for at least another month, Doerr said.

Most of the remaining departments will begin moving into their office space beginning in September. A specific schedule for when the various departments will move in was not available Tuesday.

When construction is complete in August, Doerr said the contractors will have about another

month to clean up and finish their work on the project.

"When I say August (as a completion date) that's the building," Doerr said. "There are a lot of things that need to be done before we can get in and use it."

Because of the size and extent of the project, Doerr said there have been a few minor complications that delayed it, such as materials not arriving on time.

Randy Anderson, the construction field observer for the project, said another delay in the project occurred because some departments remained in Buzzard Building during construction and had to be shifted around.

"Any time you shuffle faculty and so forth around in a building like this, it's a major challenge," Anderson said.

Construction on the project originally began in fall semester 1995.

Anderson said the work was done in two phases. Initially, the work was focused on high priority areas for the university, such as the television and radio studios, Anderson said.

The Student Publications and journalism areas of the building, the secondary education area, instructional materials center and a new atrium style entrance to the building are all still under construction, Doerr said.



SARAH WONG/Associate photo editor

Michael Doerr (middle), manager of design and construction for the Buzzard Building, showed members of the Eastern community where the future journalism department will be located Tuesday.

Buzzard may receive new name

By DEANA POOLE
Activities editor

A suggestion from the chair of the Board of Trustees may change the name of the Buzzard Building, which is currently being renovated.

"There was a suggestion by a BOT member to rename (Buzzard Building), not necessarily to change the word Buzzard," said Terry Weidner, vice

president for academic affairs.

A naming committee, which was established because of the suggestion, met Tuesday to discuss ways to solicit ideas for the renaming of Buzzard Building.

"Our job at first here today is a small one - (to figure out) how to solicit ideas from the community," Weidner said.

See BUZZARD page 2



IKUYA KURATA/Staff Photographer

Fact checkers

Lora Hurt (left) and Jennifer Gover (right), seventh graders at Mattoon Junior High School, use microfiche at Booth Library Tuesday morning to research an assignment for a language arts class.

Community members protest local mascot

By THERESA GAVLIN
Staff editor

About 20 people Monday night told Sullivan School Board members that the Sullivan High School mascot the Redskins is derogatory to Native Americans.

"We went before the school board to try and get them to change their name to something less offensive," said Amy Rose, student representative for Seventh Generation.

Some of the people who spoke to the Sullivan School Board included members of Eastern and Native American organizations.

"Once we realized Sullivan had Redskins, it went on our agenda," said Mario Leto II, a member of the East Central Illinois chapter of the American Indian Movement. "It's not a jump-in on the bandwagon. All it has to do with is human rights and pride."

Members of the group spoke for almost 30 minutes and every person who wanted to speak was given the opportunity.

"A lot of people had come a long way to be at the meeting," Rose said.

Rose and Leto said they presented the feelings of all Illinois Native Americans during the meeting.

"I think people are listening to us now," Leto said. "Last night was the most powerful meeting I had ever seen. A lot of emotions were flying around. I think that got to a lot of people on the board."

Rose said she hopes the school board will consider the information the group presented it.

"I think we made an impression, but as far as taking action, I don't think they'll do that at this point."

Greg Sanders, Sullivan School

See MASCOT page 2

Leaders begin to plan organized talks in Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A guerrilla leader and government representative began organized talks on Peru's hostage crisis on Tuesday after the rebel leader left the besieged Japanese ambassador's house for the first time in nearly two months.

Talks were believed to have started shortly after a man reported to be Roli Rojas Fernandez, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement's second-in-command, entered a white car with Red Cross markings that made the short trip from the compound to a two-story, ocher-colored house.

The car drove into a garage, and the door closed behind it. It was impossible to see inside the car's tinted windows.

Members of special police units, dressed in black and armed with automatic weapons, were stationed close to one another along the street.

The government negotiator, Education Minister Domingo Palermo, was already at the house, as was Japan's official observer, Japanese ambassador to Mexico Terusuke Terada.

Also present were mediators Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani and Red Cross representative Michel Minnig. In a joint statement, they said they were hopeful "that a peaceful solution ... may be reached as soon as possible with total respect for the life and human dignity of all the hostages." About 20 Tupac Amaru rebels stormed the ambassador's house on Dec. 17, capturing hundreds of diplomats and other VIPs attending a cocktail party. They have since released all but 72.

Minnig and Cipriani, wearing his priestly vestments, entered the compound earlier in the day to meet with the rebels and celebrate Mass.

Tuesday's meeting was described as the beginning of preliminary talks that would lead to formal discussions aimed at solving the crisis.

President Alberto Fujimori, in London attending a forum on British investment in Latin America, was somewhat optimistic Tuesday: "Even if we are not negotiating about releasing prisoners or paying a ransom, there is still room for working with the imagination and in that way we can find a solution." But the rebels warned Monday that they had no plans to abandon their main demand that hundreds of their jailed comrades be released.

BUZZARD from page one

The committee plans to distribute a survey to the community in the university newsletter, EIU Newsbits and in the official notices of *The Daily Eastern News*. Anyone who submits a recommendation must also provide a justification for the name.

According to the university's regulations, "When the use of an existing facility is changed, it is appropriate to consider renaming the facility."

If a building is to be renamed, students, faculty and the community must be able to give input.

If the committee does not find a name that is acceptable after compiling the results, they can choose their own name.

"Our job is to recommend an appropriate name," Weidner said.

The committee will present a recommendation to Eastern President David Jorns. After approval from the president it will then be reviewed by the President's Council. Final approval of the recommendation will be made by the Board of Trustees.

"This is advice to us and we

too are an advisory committee" Weidner said.

The committee is following the guidelines established by the former Board of Governors and the university.

According to the BOG regulations, "The Board reserves the right to name all buildings, structures, facilities, grounds, and other real property belonging to the Board, hereinafter referred to as "Board property."

The Naming Committee consists of Weidner, Assistant Professor of Elementary and Junior High Education Judy Barford, Director of Radio/TV John Beabout, Professor of Secondary Education and Foundation Ronald Gholson, Ken Hesler, Director of Student Publications John David Reed, Assistant Professor of History Robert Sterling, Associate Professor of Family and Consumer Services Gayle Strader and Student Body President Jason Anselment.

The Buzzard Building was named after Eastern's second president, Robert Buzzard. Renovation should be completed in the fall.

Authorities request immunity waiver

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department asked the Republic of Georgia on Tuesday to waive diplomatic immunity for an embassy official whose car crash last month in Washington resulted in the death of a 16-year-old girl.

Department spokesman Nick Burns said the request was conveyed to the Georgian Embassy in Washington and to the government in Tbilisi. Georgian officials also were told what charges the U.S. attorney's office intends

to file against Gevorgi Makharadze, the No. 2-ranking official in the embassy, but Burns refused to publicly disclose these.

Burns said the Georgian government reserved a final decision but "reaffirmed its intention" to waive the diplomat's immunity from prosecution, allowing him to stand trial here.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has ordered Makharadze to remain in the United States until local officials complete their investigation of

the crash.

Police say Makharadze's car slammed into another car waiting at a red light in downtown Washington on Jan. 3. The impact sent the second car into the air, and it landed on a third car in which Joviane Waltrick was a passenger. She died a short time later.

Makharadze, 35, had been drinking, according to the official police report. Police also said speed may have been a factor in the crash.

MASCOT from page one

Board president, said the board is planning to send a survey or poll to its alumni this summer to get their views on this issue.

Sanders said because the issue the group raised was not on the board's agenda for Monday's meeting, the board was unable to take any action.

Monday marked the third time the group attended a Sullivan School Board meeting to discuss the school's mascot.

When the group discussed the issue at a December meeting, the school board voted to retain the name Redskins because the community did not express discontent with the name.

"This is the only group that has come before us," Sanders said.

Leto said the group has been in contact with the

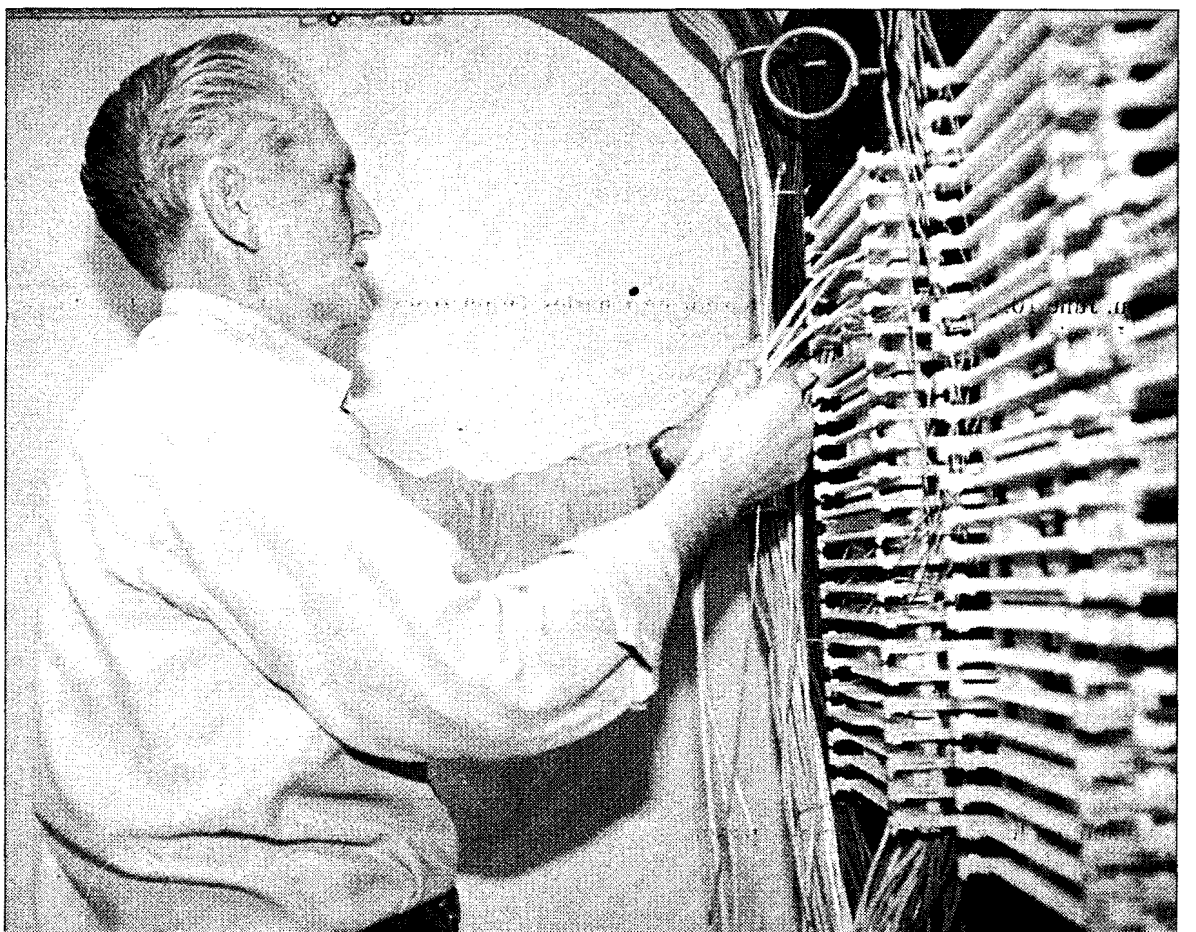
school board for about three or four months now and the talks are still in their early stages.

He added he would like to see things start to change soon, but pivotal issues in the schools take a lot of time, paperwork and perspiration.

"It's a slow, slow, slow process," Leto said.

Leto said the group will begin educating the Sullivan community and members of the Sullivan High School Alumni Association about the concern. To do this, the group will call community members and alumni and possibly distribute pamphlets and host demonstrations in the future.

Leto said he is unsure if the group will return to the school board meeting next month if no action has been taken by then.



SARAH WONG/Associate photo editor

Dwight Powell, a worker for Technology Resource Management Inc. of Charleston, works on phone lines for the Buzzard Building Tuesday.

The Daily Eastern News

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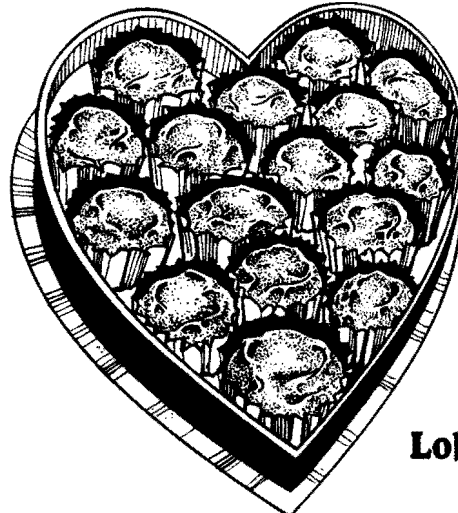
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Murder suspects appear in court

Circuit judge issues charges

By BRITT CARSON
City editor

Two of the five suspects in the killing of a Mattoon man appeared in Coles County Circuit Court Tuesday for status hearings.

Charles Drum, 26, of 2101 Champaign Ave., Mattoon, and Thomas Drum, 23, of 1105 N. 28th St., Mattoon appeared before Circuit Judge Ashton Waller for updates on their case.

Charles Drum is charged with first-degree murder and is accused of strangling Shane Ellison with his hands and a piece of clothing.

Thomas Drum is charged with first-degree murder under accountability that he "aided and abetted" his brother Charles in the murder of Ellison.

A person charged with first-degree murder under accountability is eligible for the same punishment because the charge applies as if they committed the act themselves.

Both Charles and Thomas Drum have pleaded innocent to the charges.

A pre-trial date was set for Charles Drum for 9 a.m. May 20 and a trial date was set for 9 a.m. June 10.

Lonnie Lutz, Charles Drum's attorney, said Charles waived his right to a speedy trial.

A person has the right to a speedy trial within 120 days beginning on the day he or she is taken into custody.

A pre-trial date also was set for Thomas Drum for 9 a.m. May 13 and a trial date was set for 9 a.m. May 28.

Judge Waller scheduled the pre-trial dates to make sure everything was in order and that both sides were ready for trial. Waller said he wants to know if any major issues come up and not to wait until the pre-trial to address them.

Tom Glasson, Thomas

Drum's attorney, asked Judge Waller to clarify the conditions of his client being released on bond.

Glasson said Thomas agreed to home confinement, but the probation officer also requested electronic monitoring.

Glasson questioned the necessity of the punishment and said the cost of the electronic monitoring device could get expensive since the trial isn't until May.

Thomas Drum's wife is nine months pregnant and is due next week. Judge Waller allowed Thomas to go to the hospital when the baby arrives, but he must call his probation officer once a day while he is there.

State's Attorney Steve Ferguson also requested palm prints be taken from Thomas and Charles Drum. Glasson and Lutz agreed to the requests.

The body of Ellison, 23, of 1208 Richmond Ave., Mattoon was found by hunters on Jan. 4 just south of Mattoon.

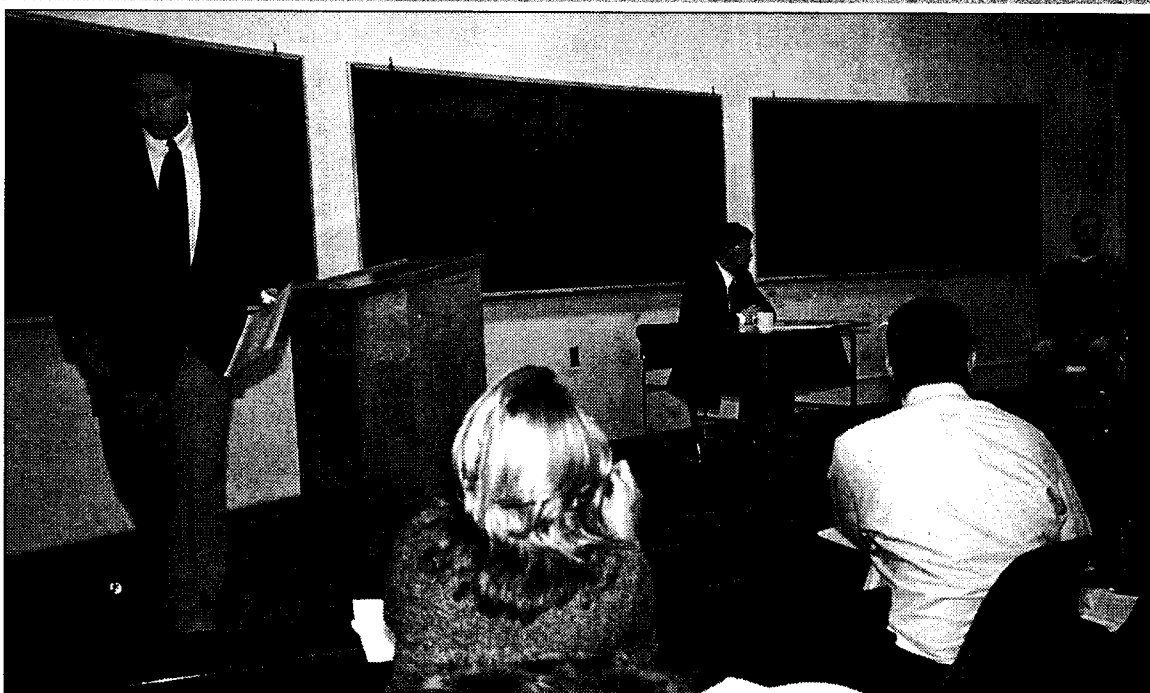
Five men are being charged in connection with the killing.

Gary Drum, 18, whose last known address was 1817 S. Ninth St. A23 in Mattoon, and Thomas Tesch, 29, of 2305 Charleston Ave., are accused of harboring Charles Drum from police.

Gary Drum is charged with obstructing justice, giving false information to police, and Tesch is charged with concealing a fugitive.

Marcus Douglas, 23, of Route 3, Mattoon, also is charged with first-degree murder under accountability that he "aided and abetted" Charles Drum in the murder of Ellison.

First-degree murder is punishable by the death penalty, natural life in prison or, in some cases, 60 years minimum and no longer than 100 years in prison.



SARAH WONG/Associate photo editor

Order in the court

Timothy J. Marsala (left), a senior political science major, steps down after questioning Chris Jahnke (far right), a senior economics major. John Watson (center), associate states attorney of the Coles County States Attorney office, takes notes during a mock trial Tuesday night in Coleman Hall. The mock trial is a 2-hour class that has been offered at Eastern in the spring semester for the past 13 years.

Danville suspect charged with two counts of murder, attempted arson

By BRITT CARSON
City editor

The man charged with killing a Charleston woman appeared in Coles County Circuit Court Tuesday for a status hearing.

John Brazzell, 27, of Danville, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and attempted arson in connection with the murder of Sarah Fitzpatrick.

First-degree murder is a Class X felony punishable by the death penalty, natural life in prison or 60 years minimum and no longer than 100 years in prison, if convicted.

The attempted arson charge, a Class 3 felony, also could result in additional prison time of two to five years if Brazzell is convicted. Brazzell is accused of knowingly turning on a gas stove and lighting candles to start a fire in the victim's home.

Brazzell pleaded innocent to the charges.

Judge Ashton Waller set a pre-trial date at 9 a.m. on June 17 and a trial date for 9 a.m. on July 15.

On Jan. 27, Brazzell's attorney, Lonnie Lutz, requested that Brazzell be given access to braces that would assist him in letter writing.

Lutz said Brazzell has carpal tunnel syndrome, a condition that restricts the movement of the wrist and hands, and he cannot write without the braces.

State's Attorney Steve Ferguson had objected and said the metal plates in the braces pose a security threat to sheriff's officials.

Lutz said he and Brazzell met with the jail doctor and are considering alternative types of braces. Judge Waller said he wanted to work with both sides to find a workable solution.

The body of Fitzpatrick, 36, was found outside her mobile home located at 505 N. Division St., Lot 6 on Dec. 21.

Autopsy reports indicated Fitzpatrick died from strangulation with a piece of cloth.

Brazzell was arrested on Dec. 23 in rural Coles County on a Vermillion County warrant that was issued for charges of criminal sexual assault. Bond for Brazzell, who is being held at Coles County Jail, is set at \$1 million.

Brazzell also has a separate charge not connected with the murder. He is charged with aggravated assault and is accused of shoving a police officer while in jail. Judge Waller scheduled a status hearing regarding that charge at 9 a.m. on June 17.

Corrections

A headline in Tuesday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* incorrectly stated that Eastern Attorney Lisa Huson is close to earning an Illinois degree. The headline should say Huson is close to

earning an Illinois bar.

Another story in the News incorrectly identified Doug Bock as John Bock.

The News regrets the errors.

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Opinion page

Editorials are the opinion of the Editorial Board.
Columns are the opinion of the author.

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

PAGE 4

UB should find other means of funding K-Love & Blue trip

Eastern students K-Love & Blue need \$980 for a trip to Philadelphia next weekend. And the Apportionment Board wants to use student activity fees to pick up the bill. The Apportionment Board is dipping into the wrong pot.

K-Love & Blue are "the best new talents of the Midwest," according to the MasterCard Acts American Collegiate Talent Search.

Making up the music group are two brothers, vocalists Kaleb and Thaddeus Searcy, and piano player Quentin Guy, who took first place at a campuswide talent show in November and then swept semifinal competition last month, outperforming 17 acts from five other midwestern states.

K-Love & Blue are headed to the national finals in Philadelphia on Feb. 23. And they are looking for a way to pay for the weekend.

Eastern should fund the trip. If K-Love & Blue conquer the finals, they will win \$15,000, and Eastern will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

The University Board sponsored the initial talent show, paying for it with student activity fees allocated by the AB. And that is fine – a student-funded talent show put on for Eastern students.

But do the math. Students pay a \$14.50 student activity fee each semester. A \$980 trip to Philadelphia wipes out nearly 70 students' fees this semester. This \$980 expense, however, will benefit all of three Eastern students – three out of almost 11,000.

This situation does not fall under the realm of student activities at Eastern. The AB has no jurisdiction. It matches two other categories, though: gambling and public relations. While Eastern was dealt a very good hand in K-Love & Blue, the \$980 is literally an ante toward a \$10,000 jackpot. It is also a meal ticket for a potential publicity gold mine. This is student money the university would be misappropriating.

K-Love & Blue have done nothing wrong. The UB, the organization behind the November talent show, should be doing the money-raising legwork for K-Love & Blue.

The UB can get the money a number of ways. It could present a tenable request to the Eastern Illinois University Foundation, which has only \$20.3 million in assets, or to Eastern's Alumni Association. Either might raise an eyebrow at a \$10,000 scholarship.

The AB's \$980 vote goes before the Student Senate for final approval tonight. The senate needs to dump this proposal and get K-Love & Blue to Philadelphia some other way.

“today's
Let the people know the facts, and
the country will be safe.

–Abraham Lincoln

Courts cause 'irreparable harm' to children

The headline in the Feb. 4 edition of *The Chicago Tribune* caught my eye: "Teens start hunger strike in custody case." I found it unusual that a custody case, no matter how acrimonious, could spark a hunger strike. What could possibly drive a teenage brother and sister to threaten to harm themselves?

The story of the Kapsimalis family is heart-wrenching to say the least. Father Kostas filed for divorce from mother Bess in March 1994. Kostas has been fighting for custody of daughter Galatea, 16, and son Peter, 15, since the divorce.

Galatea and Peter, identified by *The Tribune* as athletes and straight-A students, have refused to see their father, let alone live with him, for two years.

For their refusal, Judge Robert Lorz has punished Bess Kapsimalis repeatedly. She has been fined \$50 a day since December and had child support withheld by the court until Galatea and Peter agree to meet with their father's attorney.

It is the latest sanction threatened by the judge that has prompted the hunger strike. He said he will jail Bess unless the teens agree to appear in court for depositions. If their mother is jailed, Judge Lorz has ruled that Galatea and Peter be placed in the custody of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

The judge commented in a hearing on the "bizarreness" of this family's breakup. Apparently I am not the only one who feels this case lacks any common sense whatsoever. I, however, place the blame squarely on the shoulders of all the adults involved.

Galatea and Peter have obviously given their refusal to see their father a lot of thought. They also feel so strongly about not seeing him that they are willing to go the dangerous route of a hunger strike in order to prevent it.



MATTHEW MARTIN
Regular columnist

"... it seems
Illinois courts
have been
trampling on
the best
interests of
children in the
name of law."

"We're not going to go," Peter said about the court-ordered appearance.

This is not some childish game – these two are serious.

What would motivate a father to force his children (who so fervently wish to avoid him) to visit? Kostas Kapsimalis clearly puts his own desires over the wishes of his children.

I know that divorces can get nasty and that parents often have

to fight for the right to see their children. But in this case, we are not talking about a 5 or 6-year-old who is whining about having to go see daddy. These are two young adults, successful in school, who, for whatever reason, have decided they neither want to see nor live with their father. They have that right.

Kostas asserts that his wife has turned the children against him. For all I know, that may be true. But this is an issue that would be best dealt with by a family therapist. Court-ordered counseling would be a better choice than fining and jailing mom and forcing the kids into a hunger strike.

In recent years, it seems Illinois courts have been trampling on the best interests of children in the name of the law. From the Baby Richard case to this custody battle, courts are doing irreparable harm to children and families while attempting to serve some vague interest.

Judges need to realize that children need stability. For Galatea and Peter Kapsimalis, dealing with the breakup of their family and trying to survive a bitter custody battle between their parents, this is the least they deserve – to be left alone in order to begin the healing they so desperately need.

–Matthew Martin is a senior journalism major and a regular bi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*.



President Jorns should increase his availability to increase credibility

Dear editor:

I found President Jorns' defense of his visibility (*The Daily Eastern News*, Feb. 10) quite curious. Jorns claims he goes to Faculty Senate and is the chair of the Council on University Planning and Budget. How many students attend those meetings?! Besides, CUPB meets once a month – and, when Jorns does attend Faculty Senate, he stands impatiently or brings reading material until questions or comments are directed toward him. He usually leaves as soon as he considers that body satisfied with his often cut-and-paste answers.

Perhaps, though, my perspective is skewed. Perhaps such sightings do constitute visibility.

In my own experience, I tried once for two weeks to make an appointment with President Jorns to discuss the proposed required Honors Study Abroad. After repeatedly telephoning, I finally stormed the castle only to have Jorns' executive secretary, Judy Gorrell, suggest I make an appointment with Vice President of Academic Affairs, Provost and jack-of-all-trades Terry Weidner instead. Weidner, with his many, many duties, met with me quite willingly,

your turn

and I commend him for that. But I can only suppose that Jorns, with his duties as president of this university, does not have the time to meet with concerned students.

Additionally, as a member of the Student Action Team, I must confess I cannot recall working on a personal level with Jill Nilsen, special assistant to the president. The team met with her only twice – once early last semester and once at the team's regular weekly meeting. Of course, the level at which I worked with her is my individual perception and does not reflect the opinion of the rest of the team.

If such appearances are considered by the administrators to be highly visible, then perhaps I ought to lower my expectations and change my personal connotation of what visible means.

Some of the administrators do make an effort. Vice President of Student Affairs can always be seen at many and varied university events and meets with students regularly. Director of Housing Bill Schnackel often eats with students in the Triad Dining Service. Director of Minority Affairs Johnetta Jones is very involved in the lives of students and makes an effort to accept invitations to speak at or attend events. Assistant Vice President for Academic

Affairs Charles Evans is very accessible and considerate of students' opinions about the proposed University College concept.

Such administrators remain in touch with students and their concerns, and students do not have to be endowed with a tuition waiver to have the privilege of contacting them. As a student, I trust that kind of administrator to make decisions that are best for students. They are likely to be informed enough to be capable of that responsibility.

I think, President Jorns, that this is the root of the problem students have with your lack of visibility. How can you make decisions that affect us, in the spirit of determining what will do the most good for the greatest number of students, without actually talking with us? President Jorns, I think interaction between you, faculty and students begins and ends with you – and not with Student Senate. You should consider attending more than basketball games – we have poetry readings, rugby matches and hall council meetings on this campus, too. I challenge you to make yourself more available to us. Perhaps then we wouldn't question your decisions all the time if we knew they were somewhat student-based.

Jackie McGrath
junior English major

Costs too high for study abroad program

By JESSICA BAKER
Administration editor

The Honors Study Abroad pilot program to Belgium could have cost the university more than \$100,000, said Vice President for Academic Affairs Terry Weidner.

"I can't give the exact number, but I know it is big though," Weidner said.

The Honors Study Abroad pilot program to Belgium was canceled for spring semester of 1998 because costs were higher than anticipated by university officials.

Weidner said Eastern President David Jorns was looking for a number of private sources to help fund the program.

"The program wasn't going to be funded through appropriated money," he said. "When the numbers got big, it was difficult to find sources to fund it."

Weidner said through correspondence by mail and visitations, Eastern officials received figures on how much the program would cost.

"Some people from Eastern vis-

ited the site and also corresponded by mail to finalize the characteristics on the program, such as housing and food costs," he said. "When the final figures came out, it turned out that it was too high."

He said university officials will continue relations with Belgium universities.

"We don't want to burn bridges over there, we want to continue to work with them," Weidner said.

Weidner said Herbert Lasky, director of the honors program, is in Belgium until Feb. 19.

"He was meeting the correspondence in Belgium face-to-face to talk to them about the program and the cost," he said.

Lasky and James K. Johnson, chair of the Honors Study Abroad, sent a letter Monday to honors students telling them that "unforeseen complications" have postponed the program.

Johnson said postponing the program would be the fairest solution to students because of limited funds.

Student Body President Jason Anselment, who was an ex officio

member of the program's subcommittee, said it was unfortunate that the program had to be delayed.

"We should give it every chance to succeed," he said. "We should wait until necessary adjustments are made so we have funding to have the program. 'I understand both sides of the issue,' Anselment said. "This decision was made with students in mind."

Many of the students who applied for the program were disappointed that it was delayed.

Gwen Fuchs, a sophomore mathematics and computer science major, said she does not understand why university officials did not see the money problems sooner.

"I knew it was going to be a challenge to study abroad," Fuchs said. "I was excited to do this because it would cost the same as it would to go here."

Erin Heider, a sophomore music major, said now that the program is postponed, she will not be able to study abroad again.

"If I didn't do the program when it was scheduled to be, I wouldn't be able to do it because my senior

year I have to student teach," Heider said.

Jackie McGrath, a junior English major, said this is not the end of the program.

"I support the idea of the program, but I'm relieved they are still going to examine the program," McGrath said. "I'm still concerned about the program eventually being required for honor students, and I will speak out against it."

On Sept. 27, the Council on Academic Affairs approved a proposal to require university honor students to study abroad one semester during their college career.

The idea of the program was initiated by Lasky and Jorns.

Johnson said the honor students will be required to take 19 semester hours while studying in another country.

"They will be taking courses in foreign language, a scientific awareness course and foundation of civilizations," Johnson said. "They will have a typical academic semester, except in another country."

Faculty Senate approves fall break proposal

By CHRIS WISE
Staff writer

The Faculty Senate Tuesday approved a recommendation that could give students and faculty members a fall break starting in 1998.

The recommendation, which passed in a 10-4 vote, must be approved by Lou Hencken, vice president for student affairs, before taking effect.

(The fall semester currently

contains 74 class days and the spring semester contains 73 class days. Fall semester classes meet for 54 consecutive days. Spring semester courses meet for a maximum of 30 consecutive days.

Senate Chair Gail Richard said separating the 54 consecutive days would prove beneficial in preventing student "burn out."

"In general, the faculty is in favor of taking the fall break," Richard said.

University President David Jorns and Student Body President Jason Anselment agreed that college students face more than just classroom fatigue.

Anselment said the average student is expected to spend 60 hours a week on school work and participates in extra-curricular activities.

"Sometimes days off will encourage students to go to class more when they are in session,"

Anselment said.

Senate members Harold Nordin and Lankford Walker said they were concerned that the proposal didn't help students prepare for the real world.

Some senate members were concerned that the vacation day would shorten the week-long Thanksgiving break.

Richard said Thanksgiving break is a separate issue that the Academic Calendar Committee would discuss.

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Senate to vote on band funding

By MINDY BUYCK
Student government editor

The Student Senate tonight will vote on an Apportionment Board emergency allocation to give the student band K-Love & Blue \$980.

The money will fund the band's trip to Philadelphia to perform in the final round of the Mastercard Acts talent competition.

The senate will meet at 7 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The band advanced to the finals round after winning first place during the Midwest Regional Semifinals. The finals will be held Feb. 23 in Philadelphia. The first place winners of the finals will be awarded \$15,000 and \$10,000 will be awarded to their school in the form of a scholarship.

The senate will continue to discuss an AB bylaw addition and a series of senate bylaw changes.

The AB bylaw addition would provide recognized student organizations with funding for programs through the activity fee.

AB Chair Lance Phillips told the senate at the Jan. 23 meeting that the bylaw addition would bring more diverse programs to

what is the Student Senate?

The Student Senate is a body of elected students that represents all of Eastern's students, ensuring that the university treats them fairly and addresses their issues. The senate members and the Student Government executive board are responsible for taking stands on student-related issues and for controlling how student activity fees are spent.

Eastern and allow student organizations to host their own programs.

The AB allocates student activity fee money to the Student Government, UB, the Division of Sports and Recreation, Dramatic Performances and themselves.

The senate will also discuss a series of bylaw changes sponsored by Student Vice President for Public Affairs Brian Anderson.

The bylaws would eliminate the AB and give the senate the authority to allocate student fee money. The bylaws also would reorganize the committee structure of the senate, give the senate speaker more flexibility on when to make the State of the Senate Address, require the senate to approve all expenditures over \$10

and place stricter mandates on senate, committee and RSO attendance.

Anderson told the senate he wrote the proposals to make the senate more accountable and effective.

The senate also will vote on a UB bylaw change that would add a Homecoming elect position to the Homecoming Committee. The person who is appointed to this position would train to become the Homecoming chair for the following year.

The senate also will vote on two resolutions authored by senate member Jackie McGrath.

The first resolution would take away the requirement of honors students to study abroad. McGrath said she has asked honors students on both sides of the issue to attend the meeting.

The second resolution encourages administration to attend the weekly senate meetings and encourages Eastern President David Jorns to attend at least one senate meeting a month.

"I think it's too bad we have to encourage them to come," McGrath said. She also said the senate consists of 30 students who are supposed represent the student body and this would be a good way for administration to have contact with students.

Anselment to give address at meeting

Student Body President Jason Anselment will deliver the State of the University Address at the Student Senate meeting at 7 p.m. tonight in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Anselment said most of the speech will focus on what he believes are current issues at the university and what he would like to see students do about the issues.

He said he also will discuss what he believes are

current Student Government issues.

Anselment said Student Government is an essential part of student life at Eastern and should be part of the address.

He also will discuss what Student Government did last semester and what he thinks worked well.

~~Senate Speaker Erin Weed said President David Jorns also will speak to the senate.~~

Weed said she asked Jorns to prepare some general statements about the university.

Expenditure policy to be discussed

By MINDY BUYCK
Student government editor

Two proposed Student Senate bylaw changes would require senate members to approve expenditures over \$10 and correct wording in the bylaws.

The senate will discuss and vote on the bylaws at tonight's meeting at 7 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The changes, made by Student Vice President for Public Affairs Brian Anderson, are part of six proposals to revamp the senate bylaws.

Anderson said the bylaw

change to approve expenditures over \$10 has been the unofficial policy of the senate this year, and he believes the policy works well.

The bylaw also would eliminate the current budgeting process. This change works in conjunction with another proposed bylaw that would dissolve the Apportionment Board and bring its duties under senate.

The AB allocates student activity fee money to the University Board, Student Government, Dramatic Performances, the Division of Sports and Recreation and itself.

The second bylaw change would change the word "maximum" to "minimum" in a current

bylaw relating to executive office hours.

Currently the bylaw reads executive members of the Student Government - which includes the student body president; the speaker of the senate; and the student vice presidents for public, academic, student and financial affairs - must complete a maximum of 48 office hours per month. Anderson said the wording is wrong and should read the executives must complete a minimum of 48 office hours per month.

The bylaws were part of a senate reorganization plan submitted to senate at last Wednesday's meeting.



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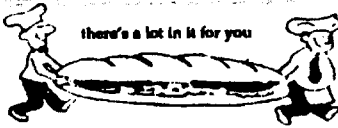
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Fraternity to receive charter after 5 years

By MATT ADRIAN
Staff writer

Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity will receive its charter this month, five years after discussing the idea in a meeting at an Econolodge.

Anthony Verrecchia, Tau Kappa Epsilon president, said the fraternity received its charter in January and is now waiting to hold the official ceremony with the national headquarters at the end of the month.

The charter will allow the fraternity to perform its own ceremonies and give it more freedom from the national headquarters, Verrecchia said. Before receiving the charter, members of the fraternity had to go to other chapters of Tau Kappa Epsilon at Millikin University and Illinois Wesleyan University to perform the ceremonies.

Tau Kappa Epsilon lost its charter at Eastern in May 1991. Keith Kohanzo, judicial hearing

officer, said in May 1991 members of the fraternity had trashed a house they were living in and their landlord reported the incident to the university. The university banned the fraternity from Greek Court, he said.

The national headquarters took the fraternity's charter shortly after the incident because of a decline of membership, said Craig McCallister, director of chapter services for Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The fraternity has been a colony — the first step fraternities take before becoming officially recognized — at Eastern for two years. The fraternity currently has about 40 members.

Verrecchia said the beginning of the charter process began when he and six other men called a hotel room for information on starting a fraternity in November 1991.

"One night we were just sitting around in our room, and some guy walks in with the newspa-

per," Verrecchia said. The newspaper had an ad asking if any students were interested in starting a chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Verrecchia said he and his friends went to meet the fraternity representative at the Econolodge, 810 W. Lincoln, and the representative said they had enough people to start the fraternity.

"From there we started the fraternity in November of our freshman year," he said. The fraternity began a rush-style process to get students interested in starting the new fraternity, he said.

"I think the toughest thing for our fraternity to overcome was the fact that in other fraternities you have an established rush system and pledge system," Verrecchia said. "You already have a brotherhood set up and you immediately have a tradition."

"We didn't have much of tradition," Verrecchia said. The challenge for the fraternity was to get

members to gel as a group, he said.

"The toughest thing by far was just to get that camaraderie," he said. Camaraderie was needed to make the group competitive with established fraternities in Eastern's greek system.

Verrecchia said a colony must fulfill three goals before receiving its charter. The fraternity must get at least 35 members, a certain overall grade point average, and pay installments that include insurance and dues.

There were times the national office considered closing the chapter because the fraternity was making slow progress, he said.

"We were fighting, clawing and scratching trying to get more guys more money and bring the grades up," Verrecchia said. "The adversity we have overcome has made us stronger."

"If everything was smooth sailing," Verrecchia said. "It would not have given us a common bond."

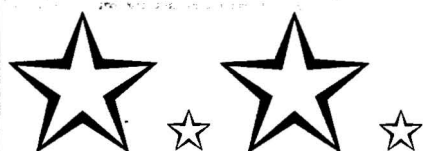
New classes still top off CAA agenda

The Council on Academic Affairs Thursday will consider adopting two new course proposals, HIS 4600, The Holocaust and JOU/SPC 3953, Sports and the Media.

The CAA will meet at 2 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

If the revision is passed, HIS 4600, The Holocaust, would be made into a three-credit course. Currently the course is a four-credit course.

JOU/SPC 3953, Sports and the Media, which currently is offered as a journalism course in the fall semester, would focus on the different historical and societal impact on sports.



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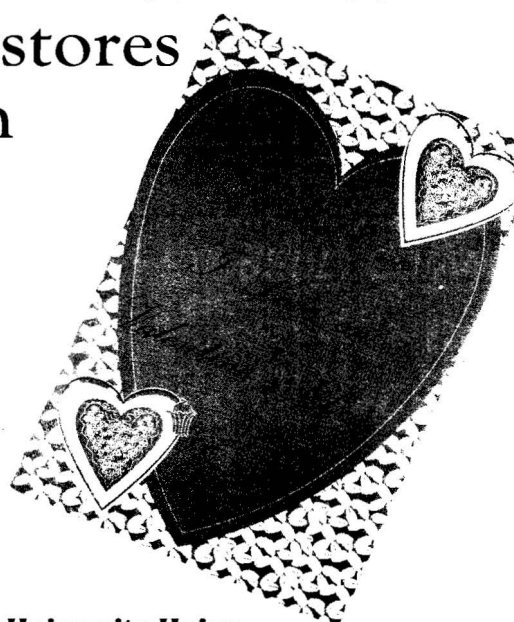
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Space telescope needs repairs

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery and its mechanic-astronauts chased after the Hubble Space Telescope on Tuesday for a service call that took on new urgency with the failure of one of its components.

A science instrument aboard Hubble conked out last Friday. The seven astronauts are bringing its replacement, a top-of-the-line spectrograph that they will install this Friday.

"This is an example, you could say, of just in time," NASA payload manager Kenneth Ledbetter said after Discovery's spectacular liftoff in the dark early Tuesday.

Once Discovery was on its way, ground controllers pivoted Hubble into a safe position for Thursday's rendezvous and began shutting down the telescope, one component after another. Within six hours, Discovery had narrowed the gap from 7,500 miles at the start of the chase to 5,200.

This will be the second Hubble visit by space-walking astronauts in three years.

The astronauts' No. 1 priority, during the first of four spacewalks on consecutive days, will be to install the new \$125 million imaging spectrograph and a \$105 million near-infrared camera. Scientists hope to peer back even farther in time and space with these instruments, which will bring the 1970s-era Hubble up to date.

"With a little luck in a couple weeks, the best telescope in the universe will be even better than it is now," shuttle commander Kenneth Bowersox said.

The \$2 billion telescope — considered the world's premier optical observatory — was launched from the same shuttle in 1990.

In 1993, a repair team had to fix Hubble's blurred vision — the result of a flawed mirror — and replace its shaky solar panels, broken gyroscopes and failed computer memory boards.

This crew will install 11 major components. Among the upgrades: new data recorders, pointing-system devices and a computer "switchboard."

New Ecuador president refuses to leave office

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — While a caretaker president insisted the office is hers until the constitution is amended, Ecuador's ousted leader flew off Tuesday to spread word that "a civilian dictatorship has been imposed." Abdala Bucaram, who was dismissed last week for "mental incapacity," left Ecuador on a chartered plane, saying he planned to visit Panama, Argentina and other Latin American countries.

President Rosalia Arteaga, who became president Sunday during a three-way political battle for the job, was to remain in charge only until legislators could elect an interim leader — that was to happen Tuesday evening. Her announcement Monday that she would not step down immediately infuriated some in Congress. She changed her mind later Monday, but changed it back Tuesday.

"She accepted that commitment. She cannot try to hold onto power now," Social Christian Congressman Marco Flores said Tuesday.

But Arteaga, saying the constitution makes no provision for an interim leader, insists it be amended before Congress can elect a temporary replacement.

"I think they're preparing a new coup against the constitution," she said Tuesday in an interview with CNN, calling it "a very dangerous precedent." Speaking from the president's office in the national palace, Arteaga said the armed forces would have no role in finding a solution to the political crisis, which began last week when Congress dismissed Bucaram.

"The role of the armed forces is internal and international security, but not acting in politics," she said when asked if she had the support of the powerful military.

The military high command engineered the pact that was to put her in office until the selection of an interim president, who was to call new elections and govern until 1998.

Arteaga, promoted by Congress on Sunday from vice president to become the country's first woman leader, first stirred turmoil Monday by backing away from the military-negotiated agreement to end the crisis in this Andean nation. But after meeting privately with the military command, her advisers announced Monday night that she would adhere to the agreement and resign as soon as Congress picked an interim president.

Congress agrees to address agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a display of bipartisan unity, President Clinton and congressional leaders agreed Tuesday to focus the new Congress on balancing the budget and five other issues ranging from cutting taxes to solving the capital city's myriad problems.

From the agenda it produced to its very location in the Victorian-style President's Room in the Capitol, the closed-door meeting was designed to signal voters that both sides want a year of compromise with minimal partisan

sniping. It was also aimed at persuading the participants that they can trust each other and at finding ways to quickly yield legislative accomplishments.

"We're trying to find a way to take the minimum number of pot shots at each other and get on with our work," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., told reporters after the meeting, which lasted just over an hour. "And that's not always easy. I think it's a learned trait, and we're trying to learn how to do that." Vice President Al Gore called the session "an excellent

start" and said both parties want to prevent disagreements "from generating the kind of tension that would slow down progress in the areas where we know we can eventually find agreement." The agenda will include improving schools, combatting juvenile crime and finding ways to help welfare recipients find jobs.

Participants said working groups of lawmakers and administration officials would be established for each area in hopes of reaching early agreements.

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DEE ZEES-Get psyched for Greek Sing, Let's make it four! Irene.

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CAROL "POSH" POWAGA: Here's to 21 Robotic years. Get ready to spank Lincoln tonight. Love Your Roomies.

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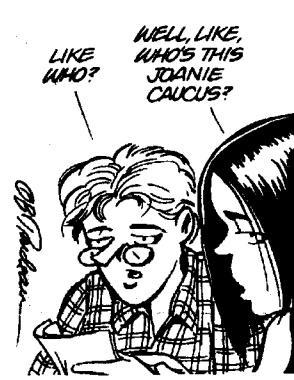
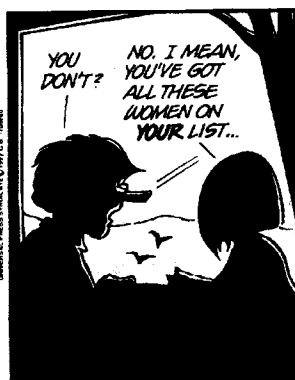
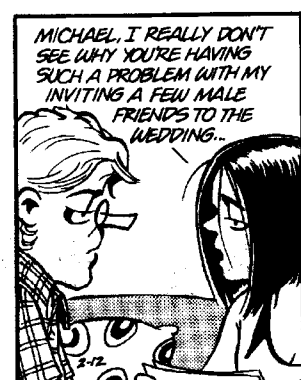
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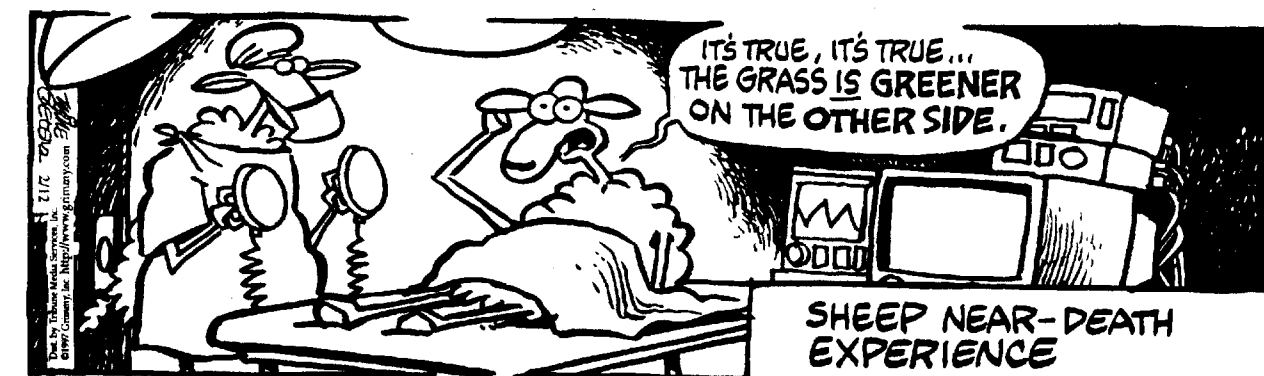
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Hoop squads still have shot at playoffs

Men's team nestled in third place spot

With just a little under two weeks left in Ohio Valley Conference action, the Panther basketball team is nestled into third place in the conference and it is still in the running for a first round playoff game at Lantz Gym.

Keeping third place was not easy, though, since the Panthers (11-10 overall, 8-5 in the OVC) were beaten by Eastern Kentucky on the road before splitting their trip through Kentucky with a 79-76 win over Morehead on Monday night.

Eastern had some help, though, in remaining in the upper half of the conference standings. On Saturday, Southeast Missouri — a team that was just a game out of fourth going into the weekend — was upset by Morehead State 83-80 to fall into sixth place.

Fourth-place Middle Tennessee also dropped a contest over the weekend, as the Blue Raiders were downed by the Golden Eagles of Tennessee Tech 84-68.

With the loss, Middle fell to 8-6 on the season in conference play, keeping them a game back from the Panthers in the loss column. Had Middle Tennessee beaten Tech, it would have taken over third place in the OVC.

Murray State also dropped a couple of contests over the weekend, losing to both Tennessee State 84-68 and to conference-leading Austin Peay 79-67.

With the losses, Murray State falls to 9-5 in league play and the Racers' setbacks keep the Panthers within striking distance of second place.

Tennessee-Martin head coach Cal Luther believes the Ohio Valley has been balanced throughout the season and he does not expect this to change.

"Everybody in the league expected a well-balanced conference before the beginning of the season with the exception of seeing Austin Peay as an overwhelming favorite," Luther said. "But then Bubba Wells got hurt and that made a difference." I think the conference will be close the rest of the way."

The Panthers now have five games left on their schedule with three of those games being at Lantz Gym. Eastern opens up its final five games with a road contest against Tennessee-Martin (7-15 overall, 4-9 in the OVC) Thursday night. In that game Eastern will be looking to avenge a 71-68 home loss to the Skyhawks.

1997 MEN'S Basketball



TEAM	Conf.	Overall
Austin Peay	10-5	13-12
Murray State	9-5	14-8
Eastern Illinois	8-5	11-10
Middle Tennessee	8-6	15-10
Tennessee Tech	8-6	12-10
Tennessee State	7-7	9-13
Southeast Missouri	7-7	10-15
Tennessee-Martin	4-9	7-15
Morehead State	4-9	6-15
Eastern Kentucky	4-10	6-16

Monday's results

Eastern 79, Morehead 76
Austin Peay 79, Murray State 67
Tenn. State 86, Tenn.-Martin 84 (2OT)

After that game, though, the schedule will not get any easier for the Panthers. Three of Eastern's last four opponents boast above .500 records while Southeast Missouri is 7-7 in conference play.

NBA-bound?:

Wells continues to play like an NBA prospect, as he has now scored 35 points in two straight games. Wells chalked up 35 points, including six three pointers, in helping the Governors dump Tennessee-Martin 92-75. The senior forward also poured in 35 points against conference contender Murray State Monday night, as Austin Peay won 79-67.

Wells continues to average 32 points per outing, the highest scoring average in the OVC.

Surprise, surprise:

Eastern Kentucky entered last weekend's action on a 10-game losing streak. But with a conference tournament spot on the line, the Colonels are starting to show signs of life. In addition to upsetting the Panthers on Saturday, Eastern Kentucky stunned Southeast Missouri 84-76 at home Monday night.

On the prowl:

The Tigers of Tennessee State began conference play with an 0-5 record but they have managed to pull even at 7-7 in conference play after squeaking out an 86-84 double overtime win over Tennessee-Martin.

Even with a .500 record, the Tigers are still in contention for one of the top four spots in the conference since an 8-6 mark is owned by the two teams in front of them (Middle Tennessee and Tennessee Tech).

— Compiled by Brian Lester

Lady Panthers on slide; currently stand in fifth place

Eastern's loss to Morehead State Monday put the Lady Panthers in a precarious position.

Eastern suffered its fourth loss in five games and fell to 6-7 in the conference. The Lady Panthers now sit at fifth in the conference standings.

Morehead used the win to flip-flop positions with the Lady Panthers, taking fourth place from them.

With the season winding down, Eastern's upcoming games, including a two-game homestand Saturday and Monday, become even more important.

"I think they're really big," Eastern head coach John Klein said. "I think there is a sense of urgency."

Klein still harbors hopes of making the tournament and playing at home.

"Of course it's possible," he said. "We're just going to have to play a much better brand of basketball."

The top four teams at season's end host first round playoff games. If the playoffs were to start today, the Lady Panthers would have to go on the road, and Eastern is 4-4 on the road overall.

"I think it's really nice to be at home, especially in a big game," Klein said. "If you end up in seventh or eighth you have to go on a road trip and play one of the top two teams in the conference."

Neeley kneels to no one:

Sophomore guard Courtney Neeley of Middle Tennessee was named this week's OVC Player of the Week.

Neeley averaged 17 points per game, 4.5 assists per game and 3 steals per game in a pair of conference matchups. In Middle Tennessee's upset win over OVC No. 3 Tennessee Tech, Neeley scored a career-high 22 points.

This is getting repetitive:

Tennessee Tech freshman center Diane Seng was named OVC Rookie of the Week, making her third appearance in the OVC honors.

Seng scored 82 points, snagged 19 rebounds, and rejected an even dozen shots in three games last week. Seng set the record for blocked shots in the Eblen Center with seven in one game. Seng's shooting touch was as accurate as ever, hitting on 33-of-44 shots for

1997 WOMEN'S Basketball



TEAM	Conf.	Overall
Eastern Kentucky	12-2	17-5
Austin Peay	12-3	16-8
Tennessee Tech	9-5	12-10
Morehead State	7-6	9-12
Eastern Illinois	6-7	10-11
Tennessee State	6-8	10-12
Murray State	5-9	8-14
Middle Tennessee	5-9	7-17
Tennessee Martin	4-9	5-16
SEMO	3-11	5-17

Monday's Results

Morehead 81, Eastern 62
Austin Peay 70, Murray State 66
Tenn. State 89, Tenn. Martin 50
Mississippi 75, Tenn. Tech 58

75 percent from the floor.

Hail and Farewell:

Morehead State's head women's basketball coach Janet Gabriel has tendered her resignation. She will leave her position at the end of the season.

Gabriel has led the Lady Eagles to a record of 7-6 in the OVC, 9-12 overall this season. In her career at Morehead, Gabriel is currently 39-88.

Missed it by that much:

Having earlier lost a game 76-36, Tennessee-Martin suffered another big loss Monday. The Lady Skyhawks lost to Austin Peay, 89-50, coming with in one point of tying their worst margin of defeat this season.

The loss drops Tennessee-Martin to 4-9 in conference, 5-16 overall. They are in ninth place in the OVC. This loss was the Lady Skyhawks' fourth straight to Austin Peay.

Streakers stopped:

The No. 10 team in the ten-team OVC went up against the hottest team in the league last week. Southeast Missouri (now 3-11) hosted the Lady Racers of Murray state Thursday, and beat them 66-62.

The win was the first for the SEMO in six games, stopping a slide that started Jan. 20.

The Lady Racers had their own streak snapped as well. The defeat broke a four-game winning streak.

Lady Colonels beat Kentucky:

The Lady Colonels of Eastern Kentucky played the Kentucky Lady Wildcats Wednesday, and came away with a 67-62 win. The win improves Eastern Kentucky's overall record to 15-5. Eastern Kentucky has an 11-2 conference record — best in the OVC.

— Compiled by Drew Granger

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Gophers set for Big 10 clash

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Trevor Winter thinks it might be the cramped benches. John Thomas says it could be the acoustics. Clem Haskins says it's simply the coach and his players.

There are a lot of ideas about why Minnesota has such an abysmal record at Purdue's Mackey Arena over the past 30 years. The Golden Gophers have won just three times in their last 29 visits there, including 14 straight losses.

But there would be no better time to beat the Boilermakers on their home court than Wednesday night, when No. 3 Minnesota begins a two-game week that could put it on the verge of its first Big Ten title since 1982.

The Gophers (20-2, 9-1 Big Ten) have a 1 1/2-game lead over Purdue in the conference stand-

ings. Iowa, which plays host to Minnesota on Saturday, is two games back in third place.

"We definitely look at these two games as a huge turning point if we can win them both," Winter said Tuesday. "It would make things a lot easier. It would take a lot of the pressure off. It basically eliminates everybody else from the Big Ten race."

To do that the Gophers will have to start by winning in an arena that has become a haunted house for them. A road trip to Purdue has come to mean a guaranteed loss for Minnesota.

Haskins is winless in 10 trips to West Lafayette, Ind., and never has come closer than six points to beating his close friend and former mentor Gene Keady there.

FIELD from page 12

but is still eligible to throw during the outdoor track season.

"The throwers are the point-getters, both indoor and outdoor," Alvarez said.

The school record for the weight throw is 51 feet 2 1/4 inches which was set by Alvarez in 1996.

This year Dunlap has already thrown 50 feet 6 1/4 inches.

"Keisha will break my record," Alvarez said.

The 20-pound weight throw is a new event to women in college. Alvarez said it was recognized last year by the NCAA.

The weight throw is not recognized by the Ohio Valley Conference, though, so the women are not ranked, and the event is not contested within the conference,

said head coach John Craft.

"The OVC follows tradition in the conference; so far they haven't recognized it," he said. "We're trying to get it included."

"EIU thinks it ought to be included and we have tried to address it - it's a matter of the coaches voting it in."

In order to automatically qualify to compete in the NCAA an athlete needs to throw 62 feet 4 inches. In order to provisionally qualify a throw of 54 feet 1 3/4 inches is necessary.

If enough people meet the automatic qualification distance then those athletes compete in the meet. Craft said a total of 16 athletes can compete. If there are not 16 automatic contenders then women are selected from the pro-

visional qualifying category.

All three athletes began throwing in high school and have competed and placed in state meets during high school. Right now the athletes are concentrating on the conference meet coming up Feb. 21 at the Lantz fieldhouse.

"The goal for the season is to finish in the top four as a team," Schwartzkopf said.

Practice for these athletes consist of lifting weights, run and throw during practices in order to improve their strength and throwing distances.

Last weekend at the Saluki McDonalds Invitational in Carbondale, Dunlap, Schwartzkopf and Byers finished in second, fourth and fifth places respectively.

CONFERENCES from page 12

with a rating of .6982. Mercer was the last team (No. 305) with a rating of .3228.

When it comes to the comparison of the two conferences, the RPI has the Mid-Con ahead of the OVC.

Valparaiso, the current Mid-Con leader, was the highest ranked team of either conference with a .5650 rating. This was good for No. 70 on the overall list.

The next three schools on the list, Buffalo (.5177, No. 123), Northeastern Illinois (.5078, No. 136) and Western Illinois (.5033, No. 138) are all Mid-Con teams.

The top team from the OVC was Middle Tennessee. The Blue Raiders had a rating of .4828 and found themselves 162 on the overall list.

The next OVC team was Murray State at No. 202 (.4587), and the following six teams were also from the OVC.

The bottom teams from each conference were very near the bottom of the entire list.

Central Connecticut of the Mid-Con was ranked at No. 296 (.3747 rating), and the OVC's Eastern Kentucky finished at No. 300 with a .3678 rating.

Overall, the Mid-Con's average rating was higher than that of the OVC.

MERDA from page 12

pen.

One of the areas Byrdsong clearly failed was recruiting. He has one recruiting class that resulted in zero recruits. He then followed up with only inking one recruit each of the following two years.

Team captain Jevon Johnson said it seems like the university doesn't care about the terminated coach. If for some reason the new coach can turn things around and

make the Wildcats winners, a little voice inside Johnson and his teammates will be telling them not to care about Byrdsong either.

Nobody should feel sorry for Byrdsong, he will find another occupation.

He can always try to be a professional cheerleader. He has what it takes. After all, in Feb. 1994 during a game, Byrdsong wandered into the stands in Minnesota in a game against the Gophers and

proceeded to shake hands with the fans and the Gophers' mascot was even on the receiving end of a Byrdsong high-five.

He can probably even stay in coaching if he wants. He has Mid-Con experience, and with Chicago State's 2-17 record this year, they may very well be in the market for a new coach come season's end.

At least they will know he has the ability to handle a loss.

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Sports



CHAD MERDA
Staff writer

It's about time that Byrdsong flew the coop

The move was in the works for some time now, and Gary Barnett should be dropping an apologetic note in the mail.

Prior to Barnett, winning at Northwestern was seen as an impossible task because of their high academic standards.

Losing at Northwestern has been the norm but Athletic Director Rick Taylor is now trying to make it the exception.

"The university believes the program needs to be headed in a different direction," Taylor told the Associated Press.

Oh really.

After four years as Northwestern Basketball coach, Ricky Byrdsong finally got the axe.

His record with the Wildcats is 33-72, and in Big Ten play they are even worse - their best conference record coming in Byrdsong's first year by finishing 5-13 and falling in a tie for last place. The Wildcats' overall conference record under Byrdsong is 9-56.

His greatest triumph came in the 1993-94 season, his first, when the Wildcats went to the NIT tournament and knocked off Michigan in overtime.

After the brief moment of Wildcat glory, they returned to past form.

The firing was something that needed to be done, but in no way should fingers be pointed Byrdsong's way.

He was asked to do the impossible and like most others would have, fell terribly short.

Let's review.

Prior to his arrival at Northwestern, Byrdsong spent five years at Detroit Mercy and compiled a 53-87 record. Keep in mind the Titans competed in the Mid-Continent Conference at the time, where the level of play is not nearly a match for the Big Ten.

Looking at Northwestern's past, that's one history book that is better off not being read.

They do have two Big Ten championships, although they were in 1931 and 1933. The Wildcats have a losing record against every conference team and in the 20 years and three coaches before Byrdsong, the Wildcats could only attain a .308 winning percentage.

Northwestern was looking for a quick fix when the program has such a dismal history that it really needed a complete overhaul up and down.

The main problem lies in the fact that the Wildcats expected a coach who never really accomplished anything in the realm of college basketball to step up into their historically unsuccessful Big Ten program and turn it around.

Miracles like that just don't hap-

See MERDA page 11

The pros and (Mid) cons

Was leaving the conference really worth it?

Editor's Note: This is the first in a two-part series comparing the Ohio Valley Conference to the Mid-Continent Conference.

By **JOSH HARBECK**
Associate sports editor

When Eastern's athletic teams were unified in the Ohio Valley Conference (except men's and women's soccer, which are in the Missouri Valley Conference) the general feeling was that the Panthers took a step toward a more stable future.

Not to mention a step up in competition.

This was especially the feeling for the men's basketball team. Leaving the Mid-Continent Conference and joining the OVC was seen as an extra notch of intensity and competition for the Panthers.

But is that actually the case?

Both conferences have their distinctions.

Play in the Ohio Valley Conference is more fast-paced than is play in the Mid-Con.

"In the Ohio Valley, there is more of a run-and-gun style of play," Austin Peay head coach Dave Loos said. "Teams like to get up and down the floor."

Valparaiso head coach Homer Drew said with the Mid-Con's slower game comes more defense.

"I think the Mid-Con does stress defense a lot more because the losing team is usually held to 60 points," he said.

According to the latest statistics, Ohio Valley Conference games are higher scoring. The OVC averages 151 points per game while the Mid-Con averages 145 points per game.

Turnovers are also slightly higher in the

Ohio Valley, indicating more of a high tempo, high risk offensive mindset.

Teams in the OVC turn the ball over 16.3 times per game while teams in the Mid-Con turn the ball over 15.8 times per game.

But as Drew said, neither conference plays one style exclusively.

"Each team is different," he said. "Buffalo likes to run up and down the court and so does Northeastern. Youngstown and us use more of a half-court offense."

However, styles of play are not as important as success, and the Ratings Percentage Index measures success.

The RPI has been used by the NCAA to help in the seeding and at-large selections of teams for the national tournament.

The Index rates teams according to their winning percentage, the strength of their schedules and the strengths of their opponents' schedules.

For reference points, in the latest RPI (dated Feb. 3) Kansas was the top team in the coun-

See CONFERENCES page 11

Panthers make impact in the 'field'



Rachel Schwartzkopf practices heaving the 20-pound weight Tuesday in Lantz Fieldhouse. Schwartzkopf is one of four Panthers on the track and field team that are trying to make an impact in the field events.

By **DENISE RENFRO**
Staff writer

The first thing that comes to mind when thinking of track and field events is usually running. Four Eastern women are setting out to change that view regardless of what coaches in the Ohio Valley Conference think.

"When people think of track they think of running events," Keisha Dunlap, one of four of the women athletes, said. "That's why we call it field and track."

Rachel Schwartzkopf and Chelsey Byers, along with Dunlap, throw both the 20-pound weight and the shotput in indoor track meets.

These athletes, with their assisting coach and current record-holder, Tisha Alvarez, also throw discus, hammer, javelin and shotput during the outdoor track and field season.

Alvarez is coaching the other three athletes because she has exhausted her indoor eligibility

See FIELD page 11

Swim coach pleased with teams record

By **MATT WILSON**
Staff writer

With the victories over St. Louis University on Saturday, both Eastern swim teams completed a very successful year.

"It was a really good year," head coach Ray Padovan said. "The men and the women were both 9-2 which is our best record in a while. The women's strengths were balance and depth while the men relied on several key individuals more than depth and balance."

Swimmer Doug Habben agrees with Padovan.

"I feel the year has gone really well for both the guys and girls team and hopefully we will improve some more before the last meet," Habben said. "It has been tough for the guys because we've had limited numbers but overall we were strong."

Padovan gave a comparison between this year's team and the teams they have had in the past.

"This year was one of our better ones," he said. "The guys are sort of got lucky because they did better than we hoped for knowing we had a few vulnerable positions. The women



Ray Padovan

came around the way we hoped, finishing second in our own invitational and winning the Bradley Invitational."

One of the victories the women had this year was a dual meet victory over Bradley 128-75. Elizabeth Burke led the charge in this victory, picking up two first place finishes. She won the 200 yard individual medley with a time of 2:19.95 and won the 200 yard backstroke with a time of 2:17.27.

Other winners included Nancy Williams in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 26.08 and Jessica Stowell in the 200 yard butterfly with a time of 2:17.78.

Padovan said the major accomplishment this year was not one of their meets, it was the way certain people swam.

"The dual record is the only thing your going to look at two or three years down the road," he said. "We have swam no particular good meet since Bradley. Our major accomplishment is just that all the underclassmen are ahead of where they were a year ago."

Habben feels that one meet was the major

accomplishment for the men's team this year.

"It's hard to do individual accomplishments until the end of the year," he said. "But team-wise when the guys beat Evansville that was a major highlight."

The men defeated Evansville 145-139. Habben led the way with three individual victories, and he was part of the team that won the 200 yard medley relay. He also won the 200 yard freestyle with a time of 1:47.92, the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 49.20 and the 200 yard individual medley with a time of 2:01.48.

Patrick Johnson also came through and won the 100 yard backstroke in 56.47 and won the 200 yard backstroke in 2:03.91.

Padovan said this year has been pretty much error free.

"We've had no problems, everybody has done what they were supposed to," he said. "Overall my expectations have been met up to this point."

Habben has had a couple of goals for the season.

"Improve the times from the previous years and break the records I already have in the 200 freestyle and 200 IM," he said. "I would also like to break the record in the 100 freestyle."